

Applicants appreciate the courtesy shown their representative by Examiners Delecroix-Muirheid and Jones during the personal interview conducted on October 5, 2000.

Objection to Claim 30 for informalities

Claim 30 has been objected to as being dependent upon canceled Claim 11. Claim 30 has been amended to depend from pending Claim 21, rendering the objection moot.

Rejection of Claims 33-34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and of Claims 2-10, 15-26, and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over WO 94/21288

Claims 33-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 94/21288. Additionally, Claims 2-10, 15-26, and 28-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of WO 94/21288. The publication date of WO '288 is September 29, 1994. Applicants hereby claim priority as a continuation-in-part to application Serial No. 08/795,962, filed February 6, 1997, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/586,427, filed January 16, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/215,030, filed March 18, 1994, now abandoned. The subject matter of the present claims is supported by the parent application as originally filed. Thus, WO '288 is not prior art against the present application as its publication date of September 29, 1994, is later than the effective filing date, March 18, 1994, of the present application.

In light of the amendments and the above remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 2-10, 15-26, 28-31, and 33-34 are allowable over the prior art of record. Early and favorable consideration by the Examiner is solicited. If the Examiner believes any informalities remain in the application which may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, or there are any other issues which can be resolved by telephone